

# The Alexandria Gazette.

VOLUME LXIII.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., FRIDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 28, 1862.

NUMBER 203.

PUBLISHED DAILY BY  
EDGAR SNOWDEN, JR.  
OFFICE—No. 104 King street, over  
Smith's, formerly French's, Book Store.

## The Dome of the Capitol in Washington.

The principal frame of the structure has been completed, the ribs of the cupola have been put in place, and the plate, which constitute the outer covering, are being set, and will be finished before the close of next month. After this shall have been done, nothing will be left to complete the exterior of the dome but the construction of the lantern and the placing of the ornaments on the upper windows and around the spring of the cupola.—These ornaments are now being cast, and one of them, representing a honeysuckle, has been placed in position, and presents a very handsome appearance. The castings for the inner dome are in course of preparation, and will soon be ready. The present height of the iron work above the basement floor of the Capitol is two hundred and fifteen feet, and the height of the portion yet to be constructed, including the crowning statue, is about seventy feet. About two hundred and seven thousand pounds of iron have been received during the past year, and in the same period about one million one hundred and eighty-five thousand pounds of the same material have been put up. The whole quantity of iron received from the beginning of the work up to the present time was about seven and a half millions of pounds, and, according to the estimates of the architect, about eight hundred thousand pounds more will be needed to complete the work. The dome will be crowned with Crawford's gigantic statue of Freedom, which is nineteen and a half feet high, and weighs about fifteen thousand pounds. This statue is made entirely of bronze, and is composed of five sections, the weight of the heaviest of which is about five thousand pounds. It may now be seen on a temporary pedestal in the east grounds of the Capitol. The screw bolts which now blemish it will be removed when it is put in place, and which will be uniform in bronze that will be imparted to it. The entire cost of the statue was about \$25,000. The sum of \$700,000 has been appropriated by Congress for the dome, the most expensive one ever expended. The original estimate of the cost of the dome was \$945,000; but the intelligent architect, by a judicious economy and a reduction of the weight of the structure, has been enabled to bring down the whole cost, including that of the crowning statue, to about \$900,000.—*Nat. Int.*

Against the proposition by agents of the Government having it in charge, to sell at auction the extensive library of the Theological college at Beaufort, N. C., a committee of prominent theologians in New York has entered a protest.

In several instances citizens of Pittsfield, Mass., have found, in splitting logs of wood, wads of hair wound round nail pairings. Those who are acquainted with old superstitions say that the idea used to prevail that a person suffering with toothache would be permanently relieved by placing a lock of his hair and the pairings of his nails in the cleft of a hollow tree.

**GEN. BURNSIDE'S CAMPAIGN.**—The protracted delay in the operations before Fredericksburg justifies the conjecture that General Burnside's demonstration against that place is a feint. Its purpose is to occupy the attention of the enemy and cause a concentration of his forces at that point, while a portion of the Federal forces intended for offensive work is silently transferred to a different theatre of action. Had Gen. Burnside intended to cross the Rappahannock and make Fredericksburg his base for an advance overland toward Richmond, it was the obvious dictate of military prudence to strike a sudden blow and seize the place before the enemy had time to concentrate his forces and contest the passage of the river. Time enough has elapsed for the Confederates to place a formidable army in that vicinity and render the crossing impossible, except at an immense sacrifice of life. The transfer of the main body of the army to Fredericksburg was a movement so unexpected, that, with ripe preparation and reasonable celerity, the river could have been crossed and the town taken by a *coup de main* on the day of General Sumner's arrival. The flag of truce repeatedly sent, the formal call to the mayor to surrender, the time granted for removing the inhabitants, the liberal extension of that time, the delay after the expiration of the extended period, all go to show that the demonstration is a feint intended to concentrate the army of Gen. Lee at that point, while the Federal forces are withdrawn to operate elsewhere.

If the ruse succeeds, it will reflect credit on Gen. Burnside's strategy, albeit the conception of making a movement against Richmond by the water routes, while detaining the main army of the Confederates at a point too far this side for timely succor, is not original. General Burnside evinces good sense in falling back on the combination of his late superior officer, which the latter kept a secret locked up in his own breast until it was extorted from him a season for Johnson's army to get warning and fall back on Manassas, and meet him in the peninsula. There are indications in the Confederate papers that they have divined Gen. Burnside's plan, and will take prompt measures to avert it. But if that is the case, its disclosure is no reason for its abandonment, any more than the divination of the substantially identical plan early last spring was a reason for its abandonment then. It is supported by such solid military reasons that we presume it will now be inflexibly adhered to, strongly as its re-adoption reflects on the strategy which withdrew Gen. McClellan's army from the James river, and inaugurated the blundering and ignominious campaign of Pope.

The re-adoption of the water route does not commit Gen. Burnside to land his army at any particular point. He can choose among several, and will doubtless select one where the resistance likely to be encountered can be promptly overcome and a landing safely effected without injurious delay.—[*N. Y. World.*]

"Going, going, just agoing!" cried out an auctioneer. "Where are you going?" asked a passer-by. "Well," replied the knight of the hammer, "I'm going up to the Zoological Gardens to tell the managers one of their baboons is loose."

**DEPOSED RULERS.**—In Voltaire's satirical but not exactly proper story of "Candide," six deposed monarchs are represented as meeting at a cafe in Venice, during the carnival, and respectively stating, in briefest terms, what causes had hurled them from their thrones.—A novelist of to-day might increase the number by five, for there are as many as eleven ex-rulers wandering over Europe. The list opens with Don Miguel, uncle of the late Queen of Portugal, who usurped his little niece's throne over thirty years ago, but reigned only for a short time. Next in order of time is the Count de Chambord, whom his adherents call Henry the fifth of France, and who certainly represents the elder branch of the Bourbons, deposed and exiled by the revolution of 1830. Then comes the representative of Don Carlos, who would have been King of Spain, on the death of his elder brother, Ferdinand VII. if the Salique law had not been repealed, thereby allowing Isabella II. to reign. After him appears the Duke of Brunswick, dethroned with full consent of his guardian and uncle, William IV. of England. The Count de Paris, grandson of Louis Philippe of France and well known here as a volunteer in the army of the peninsula, comes next, the Orleans dynasty which he represents, having been overturned by the revolution of 1848. Immediately follows the poet King, Louis of Bavaria, well known to fame and to Lola Montez, who was compelled to abdicate in March, 1848. In a batch, crowded together, are the Grand Dukes of Tuscany, Modena, and Parma. Then comes Francis II., of Naples, worthy successor of King Bomba, who was dethroned by Garibaldi.—Latest is Otto I., of Greece, who was recently rejected with as little trouble as it would cost any of our readers to civilly dismiss an indifferent servant. We might add to this list the Austrian Emperor Ferdinand I., who abdicated in favor of his nephew, the present Francis Joseph I., when he found that preparations were on foot to expel him without ceremony for imbecile inefficiency. Here, too, should be mentioned the Grand Duke of Monaco, in Italy, a small but princely territory governed by his (the Grimaldi) family since the year 968, which was sold to France last year by its princely proprietor for four millions francs. This makes a baker's dozen of sovereign princes who have lost their scepters within living memory, and continue to live very handsomely upon the property they had secured in advance on the chance of a rainy day.

**NICELY CAUGHT.**—An Illinois soldier deserted from his regiment in Kentucky, and, forging a pass, succeeded in passing the guards at this city, and arrived in New Albany on Wednesday as a paroled prisoner. There, however, as we learn from the Ledger, he was overhauled by the provost guard and asked for his pass. "I've got a parole, sir," he replied to the guard; "here it is," showing them the forged document, which was signed "Curby Smith." The guard carefully examined it, and then turning upon the sucker, he said: "No you don't old fellow; that parole is a humbug. Kirby Smith has pretty much quit spelling his name C-u-r-b-y." Illinois acknowledged the corn, and said he had paid ten dollars for the parole, but thought the man that wrote it knew how to spell Kirby Smith's name. He was sent to the barracks in this city.—*Louisville Journal.*